

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate ingredient, the cartridge having an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet fixed relative to the inlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the liquid chocolate ingredient and at least one inlet for air and means for generating a pressure reduction of the jet of beverage, whereby, in use, air from the at least one air inlet is incorporated into the beverage as a plurality of small bubbles wherein the inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge is on the same side of the cartridge as the outlet and wherein an annular bowl is disposed in the cartridge and has feed apertures to permit the liquid chocolate ingredient to drip into a beverage flow path to hold back a proportion of the liquid chocolate ingredient and release it into a liquid stream flow path extending toward the outlet.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient is concentrated.

Claim 4 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains greater than 40% total solids.

Claim 5 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains between 70 and 95% total solids.

Claim 6 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains about 90% total solids.

Claim 7 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient is in the form of a gel.

Claim 8 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient has a viscosity of between 70 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 9 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient has a viscosity of between 1700 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 10 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains cocoa solids.

Claim 11 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 10 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains between 50 and 80% total cocoa solids.

Claim 12 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the liquid chocolate ingredient contains between 60 and 70% total cocoa solids.

Claims 13 – 39 (Canceled)

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate ingredient, wherein the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member contained entirely within the outer member and conjoined on assembly with the outer member, wherein an annular bowl is disposed in the cartridge and surrounds a central discharge spout having the outlet of the cartridge at one end, and wherein an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge is on the same side of the cartridge as an outlet.

Claim 41 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 40 wherein a snap-fit arrangement is provided to conjoin the outer member and the inner member on assembly of the cartridge.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 41 further comprising means for producing a jet of the beverage, wherein said means for producing the jet of the beverage comprises an aperture in a beverage flow path.

Claims 43 – 44 (Canceled)

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cartridge is a single-use cartridge.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate ingredient, the cartridge having an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the liquid chocolate ingredient and at least one inlet for air and means for generating a pressure reduction of the jet of beverage, whereby, in use, air from the at least one air inlet is incorporated into the beverage as a plurality of small bubbles, wherein an annular bowl is disposed in the cartridge and has an opening facing away from a beverage flow path from the inlet to the outlet and a closed portion bordering the beverage flow path.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 46 wherein the annular bowl includes feed apertures in the closed portion to permit the liquid chocolate ingredient to drip into the beverage flow path.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 47 wherein the annular bowl surrounds a central discharge spout having the outlet of the cartridge at one end.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 48 wherein the inlet is on the same side of the cartridge as the outlet.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 49 wherein a manifold chamber having a plurality of exits surrounds the cartridge, the manifold chamber having an entrance in fluid communication with the inlet of the cartridge.

Claim 51 (Canceled)

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge is on the same side of the cartridge as the outlet and the air inlet.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outlet is covered by a seal.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): A cartridge for use in a beverage preparation machine, the cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate ingredient, the cartridge having an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet fixed relative to the inlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the liquid chocolate ingredient and at least one inlet for air and means for generating a pressure reduction of the jet of beverage, whereby, in use, air from the at least one air inlet is incorporated into the beverage as a plurality of small bubbles, wherein an annular bowl is disposed in the cartridge and has an opening facing away from a beverage flow path upstream of the outlet, and wherein the outlet and the air inlet are covered by a common seal.